

Application No. 09/584,363
Amendment dated: March 10, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated January 10, 2006

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 3 to 7, 9 to 22, 27, and 29 to 35 remain pending in the application.

Independent claims 3, 20 and 22 have been amended to recite that the switch fabric is a three-dimensional switch fabric. Claims 3 and 22 have been amended to recite that at least one of the demultiplexer and the multiplexer include a diffraction grating. Applicant submits that the amendment is supported at least by Fig. 3B and its related text of pages 11 and 12. Claims 33 and 34 have been cancelled without prejudice.

A telephone interview with Examiner David C. Payne was conducted on March 9, 2006 with a brief follow-up call on March 10, 2006. Representing the Applicant's were the agent of record Dennis R. Haszko with Jeff Measures and Louis Allard. The Office Action of January 10, 2006 was discussed, as were the pending claims, the Laor reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,466,711) and the Gloeckner reference (U.S. Patent No. 6,445,841). While no agreement was initially reached, the Examiner subsequently agreed that amended claims submitted herewith, are allowable over the cited art.

No fee is believed due for this submission. However, Applicant authorizes the Commissioner to debit any required fee from Deposit Account No. 501593. The Commissioner is further authorized to debit any additional amount required, and to credit any overpayment to the above-noted deposit account.

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It is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and action to that end is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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